

Whai Wāhitanga

Working collaboratively with hapū and whānau

Arohanui West

27 May 2025

Te Pūaha o te Ako

Overview

- Fundamentals of Te Tiriti o Waitangi
- A Māori worldview
- Tikanga
- Meaningful engagement - what does it look like?



Te Pūaha o te Ako

Ka mua, ka muri

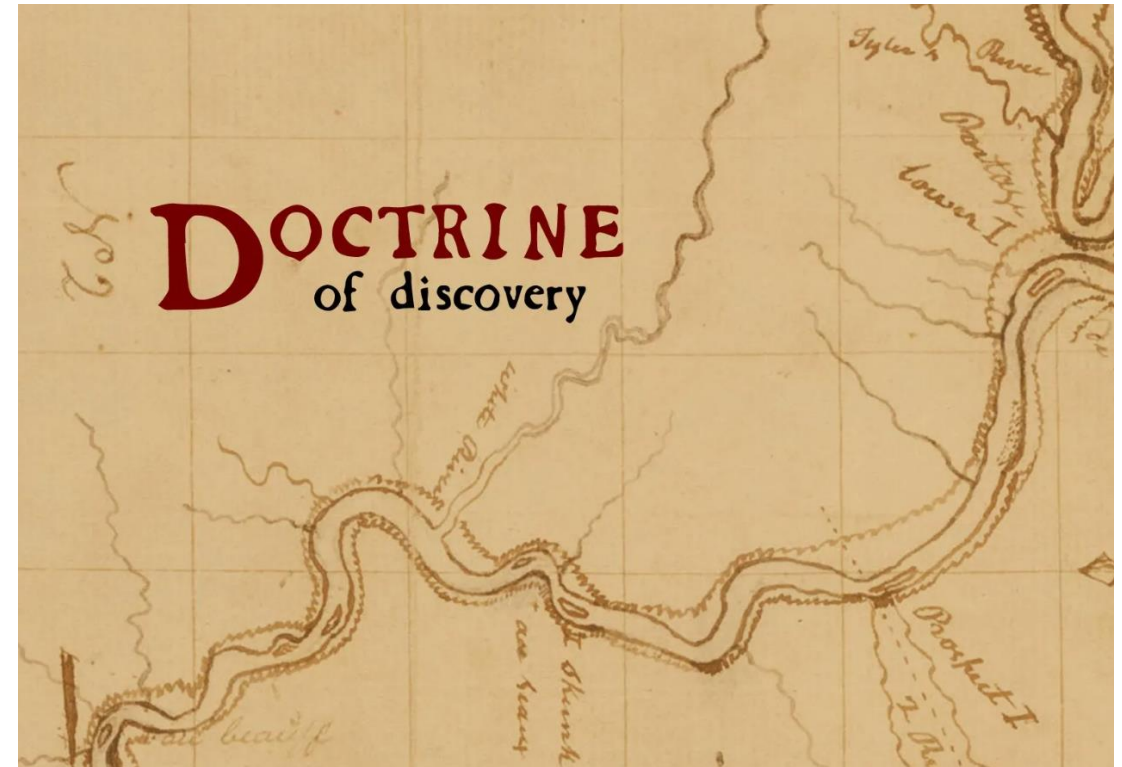
Looking back in order to look forward

Te Pūaha o te Ako

Doctrine of Discovery

The “Doctrine of Discovery” is a philosophical, legal and political framework established by the Papal laws in the 15th century.

It gave Christian governments moral and legal rights to invade and seize Indigenous lands and dominate Indigenous Peoples. Over time, those who invaded and seized Indigenous land established colonial governments which maintained these systems of domination.



Source: National Iwi Chairs Forum

Te Pūaha o te Ako

Kind colonialism

Kind colonialism operates on the false idea that colonisation is:

- necessary
- beneficial
- inevitable

It promotes the idea that Māori are 'happy to be colonised'.

Source: Tina Ngata M9; Ka tohe au

Te Pūaha o te Ako

Timeline of events

1814 First mission

1835 Declaration of Independence, He Whakaputanga

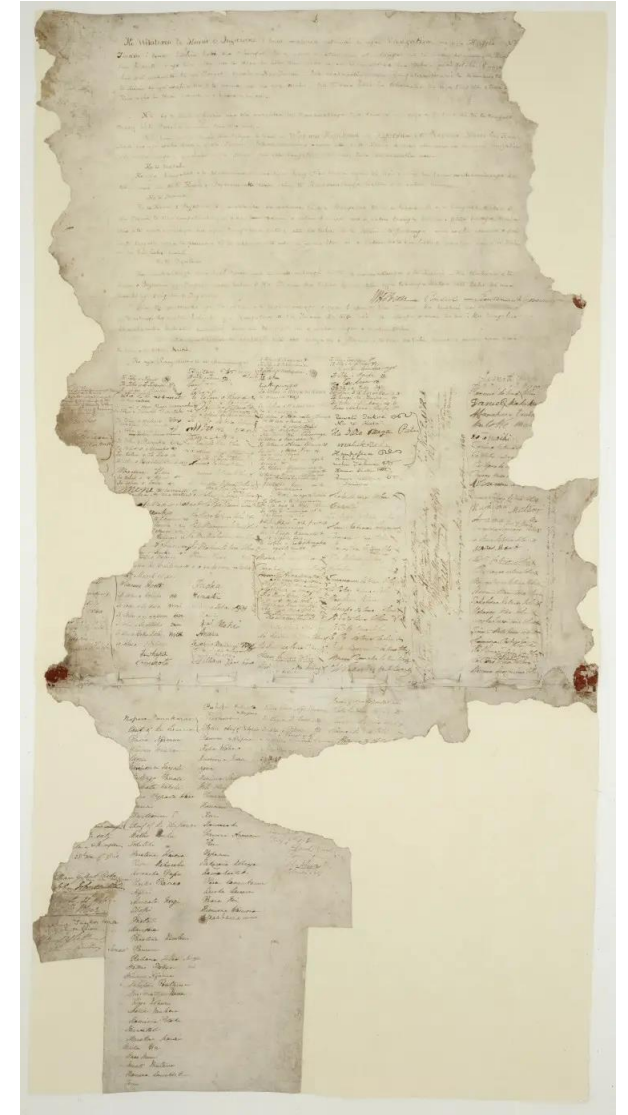
1840 Treaty of Waitangi signed

1860 New Zealand Wars

1975 Waitangi Tribunal established

2014 The Waitangi Tribunal released its report

He Whakaputanga me te Tiriti: the Declaration and the Treaty



Source: <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/politics/treaty/treaty-timeline/further-info>

Te Pūaha o te Ako

Te Tiriti o Waitangi

The initial signing of Waitangi

On 6 February 1840, te Tiriti o Waitangi was signed at Waitangi in the Bay of Islands by Captain William Hobson, several English residents, and between 43 and 46 Māori rangatira.

- After the signing at Waitangi, te Tiriti was taken to places in Northland to obtain additional Māori signatures.
- Copies were also sent around the rest of the country for signing.
- By the end of that year, over 500 Māori had signed te Tiriti. Of those 500, 13 were women.
- A sheet bearing the English text was signed only at Waikato Heads and at Manukau by 39 rangatira.

Source: Waitangi Tribunal

Te Pūaha o te Ako

The Contra Proferentem Rule

This legal principle, applied in international law, states that when there is ambiguity in a written agreement, it is interpreted against the drafter, which in the case of the Treaty of Waitangi is the English version.

Affirming our pre-existing rights






Article 1: Māori gave the British 'kawanatanga', the right to govern British subjects in Aotearoa.

Article 2: Promises 'rangatiratanga' for Māori to uphold the authority that tribes had always had over their taonga, including land, forests, and fisheries, for as long as they wished to retain them.

Article 3: The Crown promises to give Māori the same rights and duties of citizenship as the people of England:

The 5 principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi

These principles are often used as a guide to implement Te Tiriti o Waitangi when it comes to government policy and relationships with Māori:

Tino Rangatiratanga self-determination	Pātuitanga partnership	Whakamarumarutia active protection	Kōwhiringa options	Mana Taurite equity
				

Te Pūaha o te Ako

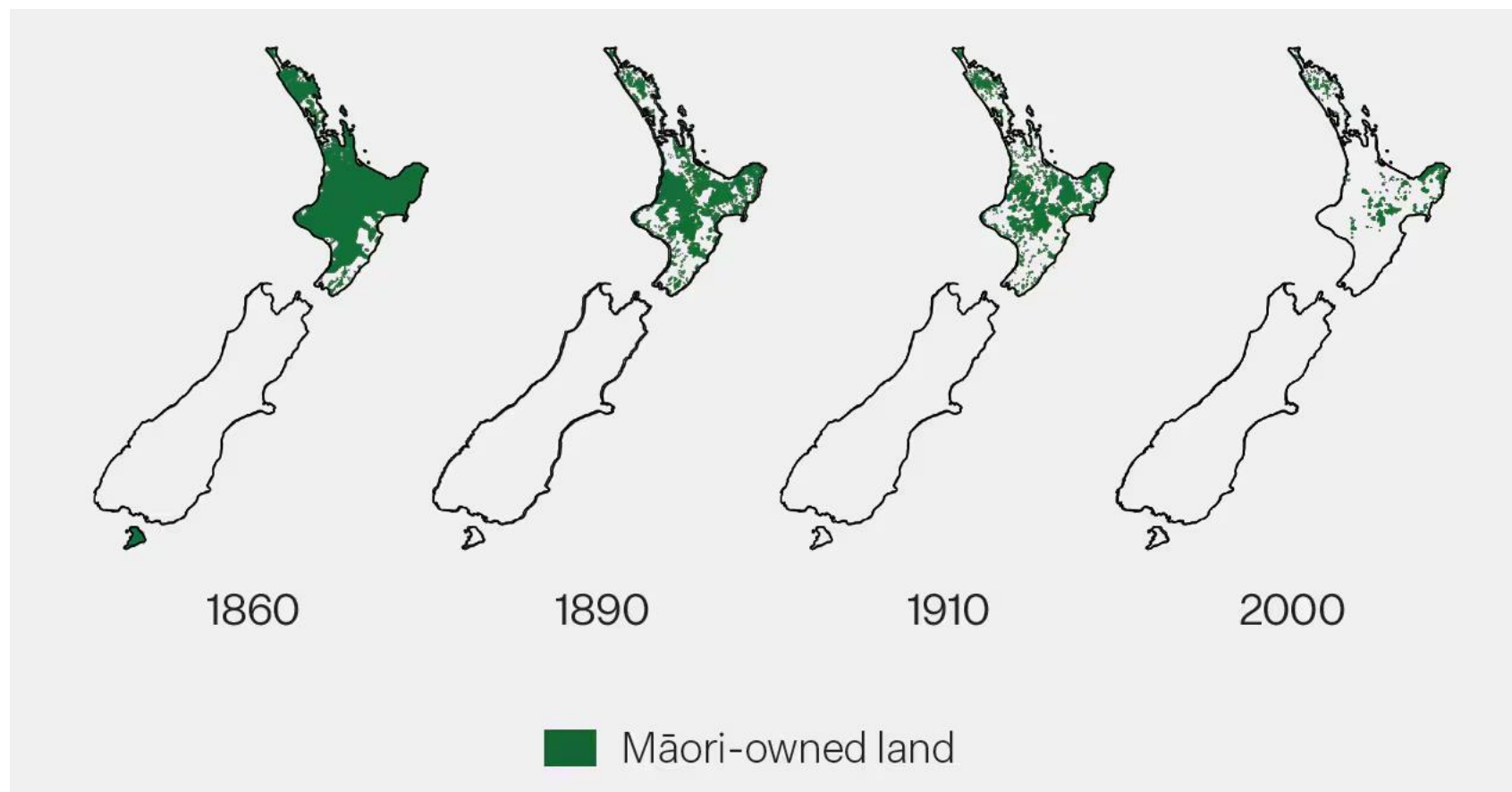
General breaches

- land confiscation and alienation
- undermining Māori sovereignty (Tino Rangatiratanga)
- failure to act in good faith (Partnership Breach)
- cultural suppression
- social and economic disparities.

Examples of specific breaches

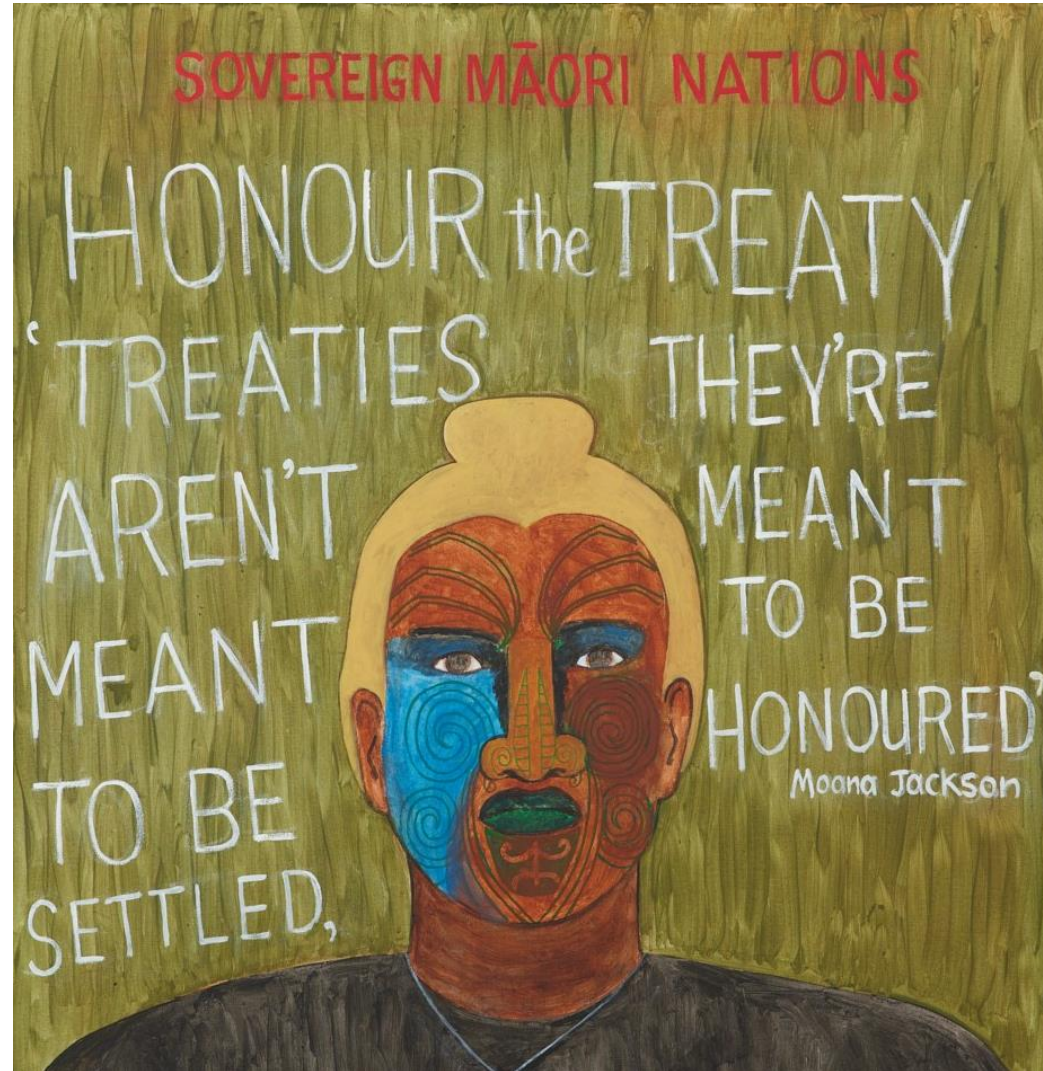
1. The Waikato-Tainui Raupatu claims (1995 Settlement): confiscation of land during the 1860s wars
2. Ngāi Tahu claim (1998 Settlement): underpayment and unfair acquisition of South Island lands
3. Foreshore and Seabed Act 2004: removed Māori customary rights without proper Treaty-based consultation.

Māori land loss



Source: The Standard

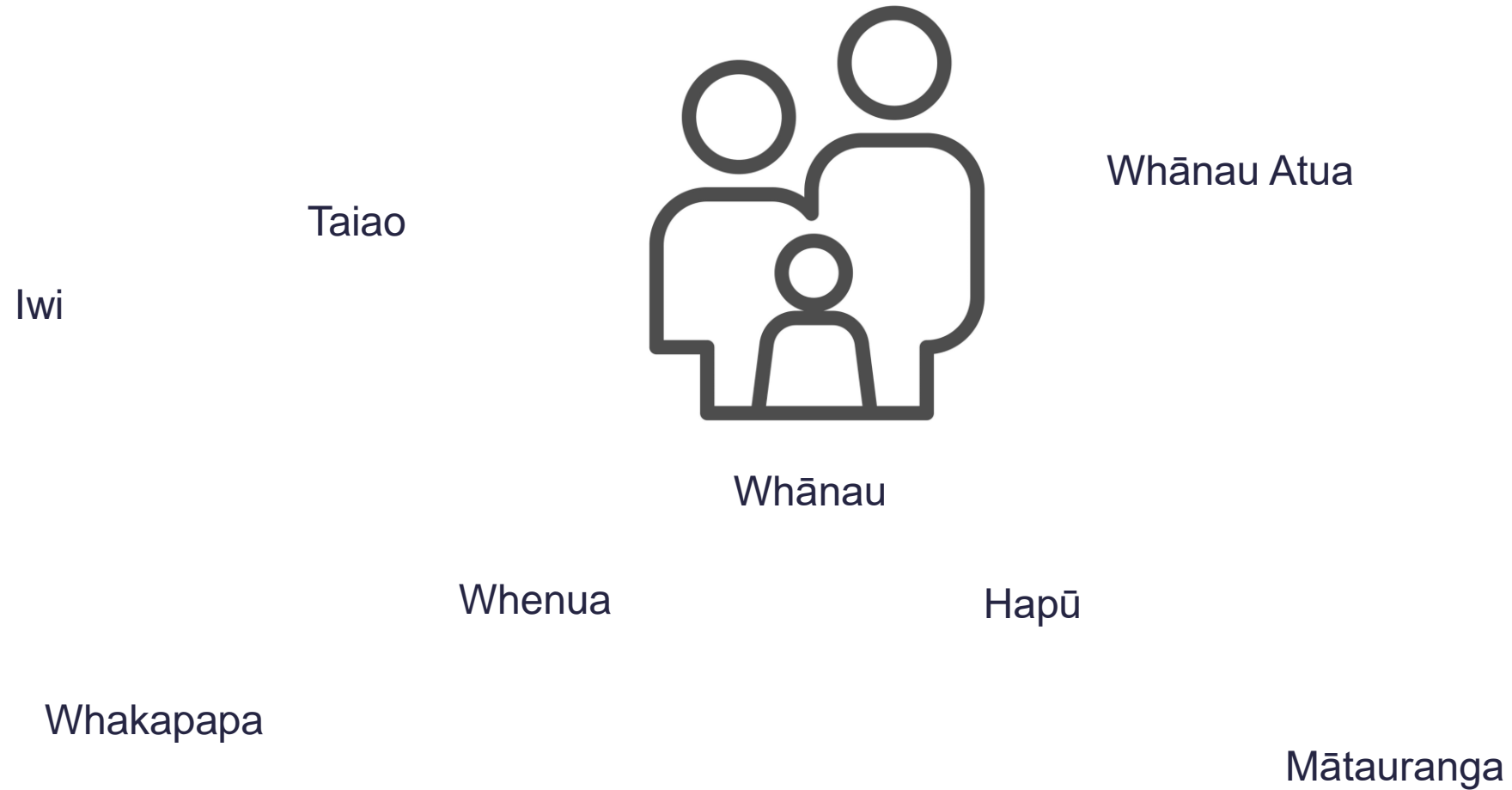
Te Pūaha o te Ako



Source: Robyn Kahukiwa

Te Pūaha o te Ako

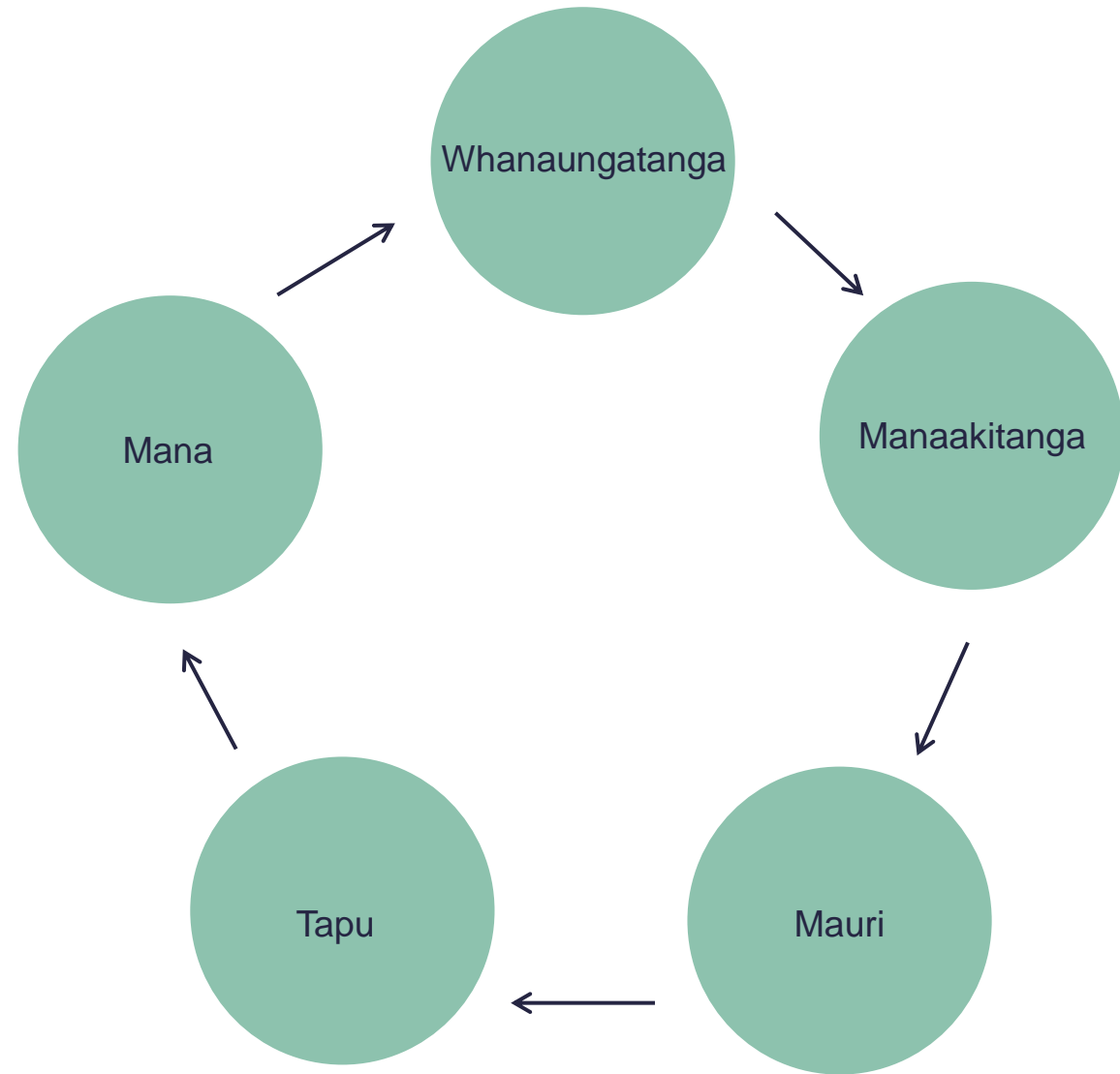
Te Ao Māori



Te Pūaha o te Ako

Tikanga Māori

These should underpin your engagement with Māori.



Source: He Ako Hiringa

Te Pūaha o te Ako

Matike Mai

The Matike Mai working group was established by the National Iwi Chairs' Forum in 2010. It was convened by Moana Jackson, and chaired by Professor Margaret Mutu.

It's notable that the working group was not directed to simply find an appropriate place for Te Tiriti within the constitution, but instead to **develop a constitution based on Te Tiriti and He Whakaputanga**.

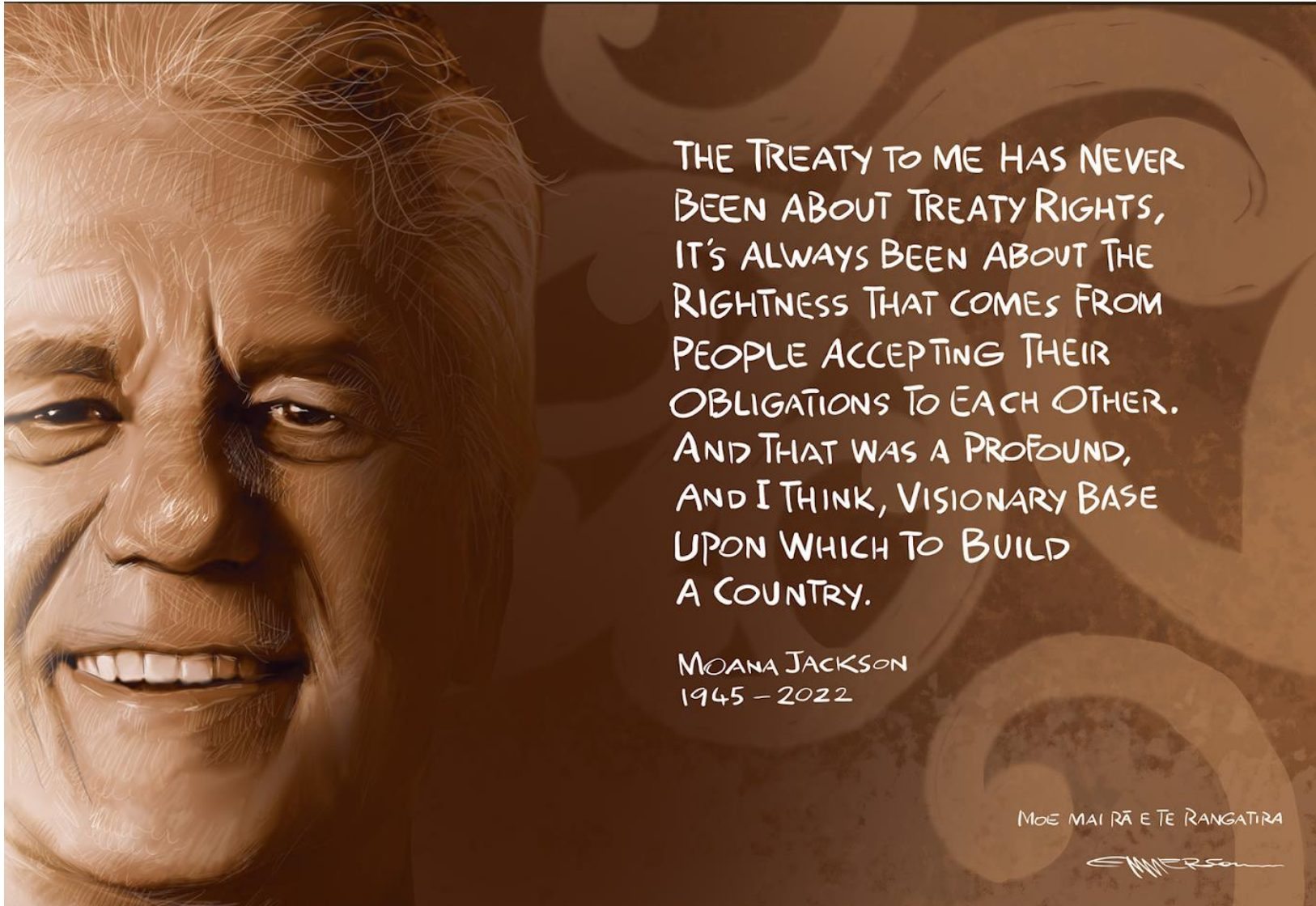
The working group held:

- 252 hui between 2012 and 2015, and the rōpū rangatahi held 70 wānanga.
- Moana Jackson attended and facilitated almost all of those hui.

Source: E-Tangata



Te Pūaha o te Ako



Te Pūaha o te Ako

Constitutional transformation to restore the balance

What's good for Māori, is good for everyone

When we restore the balance of environmental and social relationships in Aotearoa, everyone thrives. We can enjoy the fruits of that flourishing Aotearoa, together.

Te Pūaha o te Ako

How to build meaningful partnership with Māori

- Build a relationship, not just one-off engagements
- Create a strategy that recognises the specific needs, cultural context, capacity and capability of the people you're working with
- Meet face to face, mana to mana
- Be transparent
- Invest in a trust-based, reciprocal relationship
- Listen
- Face hard truths - learn the colonial history of Aotearoa, New Zealand
- Read your local Waitangi Tribunal Report
- Cede power and resources where you can
- Show up for Māori as an ally.



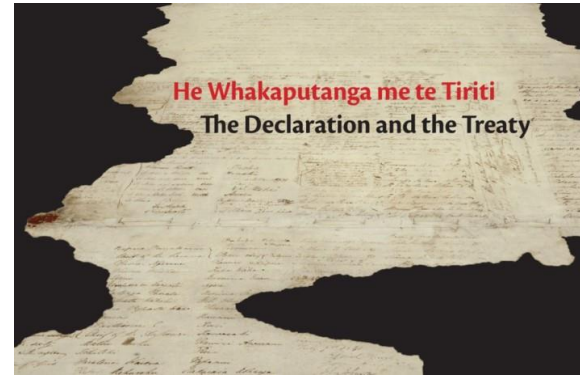
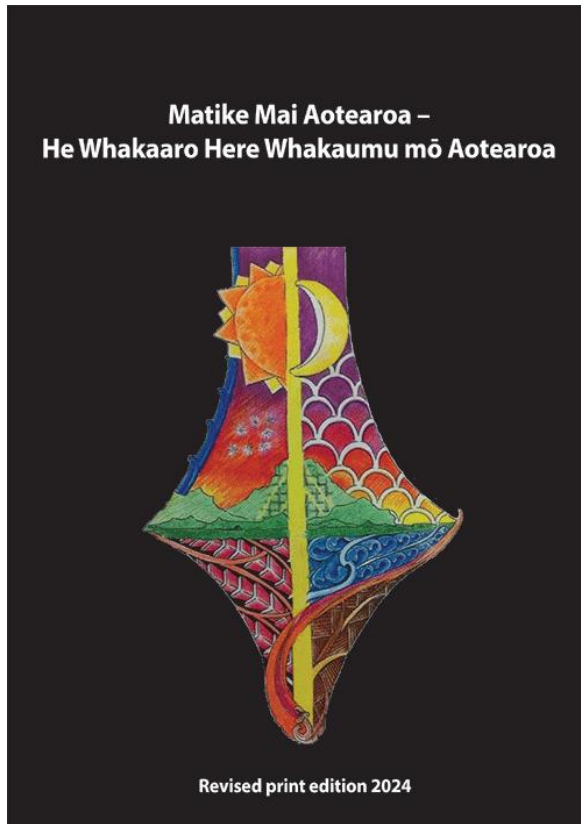
Te Pūaha o te Ako

The seed I would like to plant on your heart is a vision of Aotearoa where all our people can live together in harmony... and share wisdom from each culture. - Dame Whina Cooper



Te Pūaha o te Ako

Resources



M9: Ka Tohe Au! Ka Tohe Au! I am the Sovereign | Tina Ngata

Te Pūaha o te Ako

Te Pūaha o te Ako

Thank you